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LB 935

voter can return their absentee ballots by mail and not have it counted as long as the ballot arrives in the election commissioner's or county clerk's office by 10:00 a.m. on the Thursday after the election. There's no postmark requirement, the ballots can be voted Tuesday night after the polls close, or Wednesday, and mailed. As long as it arrives by 10:00 on...on Thursday morning. With so many absentee voting there's a real opportunity for election fraud. The sheer number of absentee ballots to be counted can overwhelm election commissioners and county clerks. The state of Nebraska Election Task Force recognize these problems in their official report released last week. The task force recommended that the absentee ballot deadline be changed to the close of the polls on election day. They also recommended that election commissioners and county clerks be allowed to begin verifying absentee ballots on Thursday before the election, and prepare those ballots for counting on election day. LB 935 embodies these two recommendations. LB 935, this is what it does: It makes two major changes; it requires that all absentee ballots be returned to the election commissioner or county clerk by the close of the polls on election day, and it also requires that the absentee ballots counting board be...to convene on election day, begin counting absentee ballots already accepted. Currently the absentee ballots (sic) isn't required to convene until after 10:00 a.m. and before 1:00 a.m. on the second day after the election. Other changes required by changing ballot return deadline. And the last day a voter can request an absentee ballot is the Wednesday preceding the election. A voter can request a replacement ballot in a special election by mail. The request must be made prior to the close of the business on the fourth business day before the election. It changes...it changes how counties deal with absentee ballots received before the polls close. A county who uses optical scanners may begin verifying names on identification envelopes on the Thursday before the election; currently it's Monday. They can open and flatten ballots and place them in a sealed container. No ballots will be counted until election day. Counties who hand count may begin verifying names on identification envelopes on Thursday before the election; currently it's Monday. Verified envelopes are placed in a sealed container to count on election day. LB 935 makes needed adjustments to our election